

SANDS RANGE SITE

1. TOPOGRAPHY

- a. This site is on nearly level to rolling glacial till plains and lake plains. Slope gradients are commonly from one to 15 percent.

2. SOILS

- a. These are deep, well or excessively drained, coarse textured soils. Permeability is rapid and available water capacity is low to moderate. Soils on this site are highly susceptible to wind erosion.

- b. Soil taxonomic units common to this site are:

Dickey loamy sand and loamy fine sand
Hecla loamy fine sand and fine sand
Maddock loamy fine sand and loamy sand

Refer to Section II-A for a complete list of soil taxonomic units and range sites.

3. POTENTIAL VEGETATION

- a. Midgrasses dominate the general appearance of this site. The principal plants are prairie sandreed, needleandthread, sand bluestem, and porcupinegrass. Other species are western wheatgrass, blue grama, sand dropseed, green needlegrass, bearded wheatgrass, Kentucky bluegrass, and upland sedges. A variety of forb species make up about 15 percent of the total herbage production. Shrubs such as prairie rose, leadplant amorphia, and fringed sagebrush occur in small amounts.
- b. Continued heavy grazing by cattle results in a decrease of sand bluestem, western wheatgrass, green needlegrass, porcupinegrass, and bearded wheatgrass. Needleandthread initially increases and then decreases under heavy grazing. Species that increase are blue grama, prairie sandreed, sand dropseed, Kentucky bluegrass, upland sedges, and undesirable forbs.

Further deterioration of the site results in a dominance of short grasses, upland sedges, fringed sagebrush, and undesirable forbs. "Blowouts" occur on steeper slopes.

2--Sands Range Site

- c. Approximate total annual production of this site in excellent condition is from 2550 to 3300 pounds of air-dry herbage per acre, depending on growing conditions.
- d. A detailed description of the vegetation in excellent condition is as follows:

Relative Percent Composition of the Potential Vegetation

	Mean Productivity	
	lbs/acre	% composition
Grasses		
Prairie sandreed	738	25
Needleandthread	295	10
Western wheatgrass	148	5
Sand bluestem	148	5
Blue grama	147	5
Porcupinegrass	147	5
Sand dropseed		
Bearded wheatgrass	147	5
Canada wildrye		
Green needlegrass		
Prairie junegrass	295	10
Kentucky bluegrass		
Other grasses		
Grasslikes		
Penn sedge		
Threadleaf sedge	295	10
Other sedges		
Forbs		
Purple prairieclover		
Green sagewort		
Stiff goldenrod	443	15
Hairy goldaster		
Purple coneflower		
Other forbs		
Shrubs and half-shrubs		
Fringed sagebrush		
Prairie rose	147	5
Leadplant amorphia		
Other shrubs		
Total	2950	100

3--Sands Range Site

4. DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK GRAZING VALUE

- a. This site is suitable for both cattle and sheep grazing. Both cool and warm season plants are available for grazing. The best season of use is summer, although the site can be grazed during spring and fall. This site is subject to wind erosion when heavily grazed and is difficult to reestablish under eroded conditions.

5. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE

- a. This site is used by white-tailed deer and antelope for forage. Small mammals commonly found are the badger, jackrabbit, and coyote. Upland birds using this site are sharp-tailed grouse and mourning dove. Other birds found on this site are upland plover, lark bunting, horned lark, meadowlark, and the chestnut-collared longspur.

6. ESTHETIC AND RELATED VALUES

- a. This site adds to the scenery of the prairie grasslands in the spring and summer with its array of flowering plants. Recreational activities associated with this site are hunting, plant study, and hiking.

7. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS

- a. Runoff from this site is slow. The soil has a high rate of water transmission.

8. A TYPICAL SITE LOCATION IN THIS AREA IS AS FOLLOWS

